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August 12, 1955

Dear General Paul:

In reply to Dr. Fleming's letter of July 27, the Secretary is again detailing his Special Assistant, Colonel Harold O. Beakin, United States Marine Corps, to serve as the Department of State's member of the Interagency Planning Group of the Defense Mobilization Board, with Mr. Howard J. Troes as alternate member. The detail of both officers is in accord with your expressed desire to continue with the same representative.

In connection with the conduct of "surprise alerts", it is suggested that the exercise to be held during this Fall or Winter would actually be more meaningful if groups of agencies were to relocate at the same time, rather than singly. By this method, communications between the relocation sites of State, CIA, USIA, and ICA for example, could be tested and interagency coordination strengthened. This suggestion is, of course, contingent upon the ability of agencies assigned to colleges to negotiate for adequate space to be occupied during periods other than the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

In this connection, the Department of State is currently exploring with the heads of the United States Information Agency and the International Cooperation Administration the possibility of joint operations at one site or of providing emergency space for liaison groups from those agencies since their sites are considered to be too remote from the alternate headquarters of the Department of State for the most effective working relationships.

Sincerely yours,

Copies to:

Director, CIA  
Director, USIA  
Director, ICA

General Willard S. Paul  
Assistant to the Director  
for Plans and Readiness,  
Office of Defense Mobilization

Under Secretary *part*

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